

Appendix M

TRANSIT PROGRAMS

The basic structure of federal transit programs has not changed from the previous STIP. The primary federal-aid programs that provide funds for public transportation are listed below. The funding flexibility features and similar matching ratios to the highway programs have been retained. Transit funds may be used for highway improvements, but under somewhat more stringent conditions than when using highway funds for transit improvements. The transit programs include:

Section 5307 UZA Formula - Geared specifically to urbanized areas to provide both capital and operating assistance. Projects to be funded through this program are described in the relevant metropolitan area TIPs. A portion of the Program is for areas under 200,000 population and a portion goes directly to areas over 200,000 population.

Section 5309 Capital - Provides discretionary capital assistance for projects not covered by other federal capital programs. It provides capital funding for fixed guideway modernization, new systems, and bus and bus related projects. Funding for this program is provided through a grant application process.

Section 5310 Elderly & Disabled - Provides capital equipment to private nonprofit organizations or public transit agencies to meet the special needs of elderly persons and persons with disabilities.

Section 5311 Non-UZA Formula - Provides operating assistance to local public transit agencies in areas of the state with populations of less than 50,000 and capital grants for intercity facilities and equipment. Funding for operating assistance is provided as a percentage of eligible costs, not to exceed 50 percent of the operating net eligible costs. The Rural Technical Assistance Program (RTAP) provides funding for training, technical assistance, research and support services.

Section 5316 Job Access/Reverse Commute - Provides funding to develop transportation services for welfare recipients and low income individuals to and from jobs, and to develop transportation services from urban centers to suburban employment opportunities.

Section 5317 New Freedom Initiative - Provides formula grants to the states for development and implementation of transportation services to help persons with disabilities access employment and employment related services. The program funds both capital and operating projects.

Section 5313(b) Planning and Research - Provides financial assistance for statewide planning and technical assistance activities, planning support for nonurbanized areas, research, development and demonstration projects. Funds are allocated by a formula however, each state must receive at least 0.5 percent of the amount apportioned.